(b) the mode of Government control over them; and

(c) the details of the system evolved by Government so that in the absence of control, corruption and any thing against public interest should not take place?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLUEM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Based on certain broad parameters advised by the Government to the public sector oil marketing companies (OMCs), the latter have framed their guidelines for the selection of retail outlet dealerships, LPG distributionships and SKO-LDO dealerships for viable locations in the country, and have been making selections in terms of these guidelines. These guidelines, which are objective and transparent in nature, provide for a detailed procedure to be followed by the OMCs in making selection of dealers/ distributors. The procedure includes selection of dealers/distributors by the selection committee of the OMC concerned on the basis of evaluation of the suitability of the candidates *vis-a-vis* certain laid down parameters. Furthers, the guidelines provide for grievance redressal mechanism and any complaint/grievance related to the selection of dealers/distributors is dealt with by the OMCs as per this mechanism. As and when any complaint/representation is received by the Government against selection of dealers/distributors, the same is looked into and if required, the concerned OMC is asked to take appropriate remedial action.

Subsidy on domestic LPG

2312. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have proposed to do away with the subsidy on domestic LPG in a phased manner;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government will consider continuing the subsidy on domestic LPG in view of the consumers who also comprise of middle class and lower middle class people?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) As per the decision taken at the time of the announcement of the dismantling of the Administered Pricing Mechanism (APM) on 1.4.2002, the Government subsidy on domestic LPG is to be phased out over a period of 5 years *i.e.* by 1.4.2007.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Complaints on allotment of petrol pumps

†2313. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of petroleum companies against whom complaints of irregularity in allotment of petrol pumps were received by Government during last three years, State-wise;

(b) the action taken by Government on the complaints received and the number of officers found guilty therein;

(c) the policy regarding the allotment of petrol pump by the companies;

(d) whether in view of the complaints received, Government are contemplating to make the petrol pump allotment policy more transparent; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR) (a) and (b) The Government receive complaints from time to time against selection of retail outlet dealers. Such complaints are inquired into through the oil marketing companies (OMCs)/Chief Vigilance Officers of OMCs and remedial action taken, wherever necessary. The details of complaints received during the last three years are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) to (e) Based on certain broad parameters advised by the Government to the public sector OMCs the latter have framed their guidelines for the selection of retail outlet dealerships, LPG distributorships and SKO-LDO dealerships, and have been making selections in terms

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.